

ANR Weekly

(A weekly update on agriculture education from the Department of Public Instruction)

October 15, 2008

In This Issue:

1. Cheryl Zimmerman named NASAE President-Elect
2. Chicago School of Agriscience article and radio story
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=96039969&ft=1&f=1013>
3. FFA Convention Highlight page <http://www.ffa.org/convention/2008/index.cfm>
4. Ag Ed Survey
5. DPI Fall In-services- **Attached**
6. US-Mexico Partnership in Agriculture, Business, or Social Sciences (2007-2010) **Attached**
7. Jag Lake FFA Camp Reservations- **Still available**
8. National SAE Grant information
9. National Financial Literacy Challenge Award
10. Wisconsin Environmental Science Information
11. MAQA Training offered at MFE/ALD **CANCELLED**
12. Ag/Science <http://dpi.wi.gov/ag/asec.html>
13. Teacher Resource websites

All, (teachers only)

If you have filled out this survey, thank you for your time. We have had 148 programs fill out the survey if you have not please take a few minutes to fill it out.

Here it is the first attempt to collect some data about courses you teach in your program. Below is the website to take this brief 2 question survey. We are taking baby steps and I am hoping that this type of program can be used to collect more valuable data. We are looking for **ONE** response from each school. Please let me know if you have questions or comments.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=eTtFd5HpB8Lz5YPmaf43mQ_3d_3d

DPI Fall In-service schedule- the brochure and letter from the State Superintendent was mailed in the bi-weekly mailing this week to all your district administrators. I have heard from a few school districts that they have received this information. If you have any questions please let us know.

November 5, 2008

Section 5 & 10
Madison Area Technical College
Madison Truax Campus
Room 142 A/B
Phone: 608-246-6763

November 7, 2008

Section 6 at CESA 5
626 East Slifer Street, Portage
Phone: 608-742 8814 ext. 282

November 11, 2008

Section 7 at MSTC
500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids
Phone: 715-422-5375

November 12, 2008

Sections 8 & 9
Northeast Technical College
Green Bay Botanical Gardens in LH107 (Landscape Horticulture Learning Center)
2600 Larson Road, Green Bay
(off of Packerland Road)
Phone: 920-498-5659

November 18, 2008

Section 4 at CESA 3 Office
1800 Industrial Drive, Fennimore
Phone: 608-822-3276

November 19, 2008

Section 3 at CESA 4 Office
923 East Garland Street, West Salem
Phone: 608-786-4800

Jag Lake FFA Camp Reservations

Reservations for 2009 Jag Lake dates will open on **Monday, October 6, 2009**. The procedures for making reservations are as follows: <http://dpi.wi.gov/ffa/ffajagdates.html>

- Reservations will be taken beginning Monday, October 6.
- Reservations are to be called in to Mike Odden, State FFA Office Assistant, at (608) 266-7262 or e-mailed to: michael.odden@dpi.wi.gov . If leaving a message on voice mail, please indicate the following information:
 - FFA Chapter
 - Dates requested
 - Your name
 - A return telephone number
- Mike will send an e-mail confirmation of your reservation.
- An invoice and other information will be mailed out. Payment and the signed Contract of Use form must be returned within 30 days of the invoice date.
- Multiple voice mail messages and/or e-mails requesting the same dates will be handled based on the date/time the message was left or e-mail sent.
- If we do not receive payment within the 30 day period, your reservation dates will be released and become available to all chapters.

Rates and Payment Information

DPI will send an invoice confirming the time and date of your reservation, **your payment deadline**, and the dates of your reservation. The invoice will be in the amount of your entire stay (either \$250 for a 3-day reservation or \$275 for a 4-day reservation).

As advisor, you will be responsible for sending your chapter's payment to DPI on or before the payment deadline indicated on your invoice. Your chapter's reservation will automatically be released if you do not send full payment (either \$250 or \$275) with a postmark dated on or before the 30-day payment deadline. Should you need to cancel your reservation, please keep in mind full refunds will be issued only through March 1, 2009. No refunds will be issued after March 1. It is important to be aware of this policy as you plan your chapter's schedule for the year. It was established so that cancellations are processed early enough to make the dates

available for other chapters to reserve well in advance of camping season. We want as many chapters as possible to have the opportunity to experience Jag Lake.

National FFA SAE Grant

This is an EXTREMELY simple application, only five pages and one of those is a photo page. Unlike many of our award programs it's based on financial need. Fifty percent of the points are based on the advisor's statement. Please remind them to address this issue as we get far too many applications with absolutely no mention of financial need. This is a \$500 grant and has been used by several members to launch their SAE into a national proficiency or agri-entrepreneurship winner. **Due date is postmarked November 10th**

Further information and the applications can be found here:

http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_programs.SAE

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Deborah Sellers
Program Coordinator - Convention, Awards, Recognition and Events Division
National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
PO Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

America's High School Students Are Invited to... Take the Challenge!

Register today at <http://FLC.treas.gov/teacher>

Your students could earn a National Financial Literacy Challenge Award. Whether today's high school students head to college or straight into the workforce, they will face a robust marketplace of financial products and services. To better navigate our nation's financial systems, they need to learn more about saving and investing, using credit wisely, avoiding fraud, and a number of other financial topics.

The newly formed President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy has recommended that the U.S. Department of the Treasury challenge U.S. students to learn more about personal finance. In the spring of 2008, more than 46,000 high school students participated in the National Financial Literacy Challenge. The Challenge is a voluntary, 35-question test that students can take online to earn recognition of their financial knowledge.

Students scoring in the top 25th percentile of the nation's scores will earn a certificate of recognition from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Students scoring exceptionally high will win a 2008 National Financial Literacy Challenge Award medal. Recognition in this national competition is prestigious and worthy of listing on a resume or college application. Although the Challenge is designed for students who have been exposed to financial education, there are no classroom prerequisites. Any student at least 13 years old taking any high school

class may participate. Teachers must register their students to compete. There is no fee to participate.

Thanks to the Charles Schwab Foundation, students with perfect scores and their schools will receive \$1,000 each from the Foundation.

**Take the Challenge from
November 3–26, 2008
<http://FLC.treas.gov/teacher>**

Wisconsin Environmental Science Information

The *Wisconsin Environmental Science Course Framework* that was distributed at the event is available online: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/Framework/pdf/ESFramework.pdf>.

Check out the activities and suggestions that have been added to the Digital Resource Library: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/envsci/Framework/Overview/index.htm>. Just click on a topic to find teaching resources.

Ag/Science Equivalent Credit Information

We have officially approved 4 school districts for our first round of the ag/science equivalent credit option. We are currently in the process of approving 5 more school districts. Below is the letter the State Superintendent sent to all District Administrators back in August of 2007. The website to find all the information is at <http://dpi.wi.gov/ag/asec.html>

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is committed to expanding opportunities for students to meet the graduation requirements in § 118.33 Stats. and Chapter PI 18, the *High School Graduation Standards*.

Chapter PI 18.02 defines “equivalent graduation policy” as “a board policy which meets the credit requirements specified (§ 118.33 Stats.) for each subject area, but which permits selected equivalent courses as long as such courses contain the time allotment and substantially the same objectives to develop the knowledge, concepts, and skills of the course for which an equivalent is proposed.”

This high school course equivalency option for a district is not new; however, the process for seeking DPI approval in the area of agriculture and science course equivalency has been updated.

A relevant question is whether or not an equivalent course meets established university or college entrance requirements. UW System college preparatory entrance requirement states “all University of Wisconsin System institutions require new freshmen to have completed a **minimum** of 17 high school credits. Thirteen of these credits must be core college preparatory from the following areas of study: four credits of English, three credits of mathematics, three credits of natural science, and three credits of social science/history.” DPI is working with the University of Wisconsin System to establish an ongoing process for review and recognition of DPI approved equivalent courses.

When documenting equivalency credit on a student’s transcript, it is important to note that the original course designation does not change; that is, an agriculture course that is approved as equivalent to a science course will remain listed on the transcript as an agriculture course. The district will, however, need to designate the agriculture course as being a science equivalent on the student’s transcript.

Similarly, the required license for the teacher does not change. An agriculture course approved as equivalent to a science course would have to be taught by a teacher who holds an agriculture license.

Use the following process to seek DPI approval for designating an agriculture course as equivalent to a science course:

1. Form a committee of district personnel that includes both agriculture and science educators. Review the knowledge and skills of the agriculture course the district is seeking equivalency for and compare this to the knowledge and skills identified in the district science curriculum or program. To assist with this process, DPI has completed a crosswalk document between *Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Agriculture Education* and *Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Science*. This crosswalk is to be completed during the review process. DPI has several best practice examples available for agriculture courses that are representative of an equivalent agriculture course. Please refer to <http://dpi.wi.gov/cte/agprogram.html> to find those examples.
2. Request school board approval for the equivalency course.
3. Submit all documentation to DPI using Form PI 1803 - AG. This documentation is to include dates and meeting times, district personnel in attendance, documentation of course content with instructional time allocation specified, alignment to the crosswalk from DPI, and documentation of course approval by the district's school board, including the date of board acceptance of the equivalent course.

Please feel free to contact Jeff Hicken, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education Consultant (jeffrey.hicken@dpi.state.wi.us, 608/267-9255), or Shelley Lee, Science Education Consultant (shelley.lee@dpi.state.wi.us, 608/266-3319) if you have any questions.

Teacher Resources

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Agriculture and Natural Resources homepage
<http://dpi.wi.gov/ag/index.html> (still under some construction)

Wisconsin Team Ag Ed <http://www.wisconsinteamaged.com/>

States Career Clusters <http://www.careerclusters.org/>

Partnership for the 21st Century Skills <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php>

UW-Extension Animal Science <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/>

LEAF K-12 Forestry Education Program <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/>

KEEP-K-12 Energy Education Program <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep/>

Web site for Wisconsin Ag Ed vacancies: <http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/app/employment>

That's all for this week from your DPI Staff:

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